

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01694 231325Z  
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00  
/030 W

-----231346 011348 /44

R 231300Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1373  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1694

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, IR, NL  
SUBJ: NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO THE NETHERLANDS

REF: TEHRAN 1680

1. ROBERT DE SOUZA, FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO IRAN SINCE 1972, HAS BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR TO THE NETHERLANDS, ACCORDING TO FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCES HERE. LAST FALL THERE WAS ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS IMPENDING TRANSFER TO TURKEY AS AMBASSADOR BUT CONSIDERATIONS CONCERNING DE SOUZA'S HEALTH APPARENTLY REQUIRED A CHANGE OF POST.

2. FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND WAS PROVIDED 76 PARIS 31356: "BORN IN 1921, DE SOUZA IS A GRADUATE OF THE PRESTIGIOUS ECOLE NATIONALE D'ADMINISTRATION. HE BEGAN HIS DIPLOMATIC CAREER IN 1949 ASSIGNED AS A VICE-CONSUL TO LUXEMBOURG, AND IN 1952 WAS POSTED TO THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IN 1956 HE WAS NAMED FIRST SECRETARY IN DAMASCUS AND WAS NEXT POSTED TO BEIRUT WHERE HE SERVED UNTIL 1961. RETURNING TO THE QUAI D'ORSAY, DE SOUZA WAS BRIEFLY IN CHARGE OF MOROCCAN AND TUNISIAN AFFAIRS, UNTIL HE WAS NAMED/ DIPLOMATIC COUNSELOR TO PRIME MINISTER POMPIDOU IN 1962, A POST WHICH HE HELD FOR TWO  
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YEARS.

"FROM 1964-68 DE SOUZA SERVED AS FIRST COUNSELOR IN ATHENS, THEN RETURNED TO PARIS WHERE HE SERVED FOR FOUR YEARS AS DIRECTOR OF CABINET FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. DE SOUZA WAS NAMED AMBASSADOR TO IRAN IN 1972.

"A MEMBER OF THE LEGION OF HONOR (RANK OF CHEVALIER) AND AN OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT, DE SOUZA HOLDS THE PERSONAL RANK OF MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY. HE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER YVONNE SOULIER AND THEY ARE THE PARENTS OF THREE CHILDREN."

3. COMMENT: DE SOUZA HAS BEEN AN EFFECTIVE AMBASSADOR WHILE IN TEHRAN. HE HAS WORKED ASSIDUOUSLY TO OVERCOME SOME MIS-UNDERSTANDINGS EVIDENT IN FRANCO-IRANIAN RELATIONS ARISING FROM THE TIME OF THE 2500 YEAR CELEBRATION IN 1971 WHEN PRESIDENT POMPIDOU REVERSED HIS DECISION TO ATTEND THE CEREMONIES. DE SOUZA WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN EMPHASIZING TRADITIONAL FRENCH TIES TO IRAN, IN HAVING THE EMPRESS VISIT FRANCE, AND IN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EMPRESS FARAH'S EDUCATION AND ATTACHMENT TO FRENCH CULTURE. DE SOUZA HAS BEEN REASONABLY FRIENDLY TO U.S. OFFICIALS. HE DOES NOT HAVE AN EFFERVESCENT PERSONALITY AND UNTIL ONE GETS TO KNOW HIM EXHIBITS A SOMEWHAT SUPERCILIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD OTHERS. MIKLOS

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PDIP, IR, NL, (DE SOUZA, ROBERT)  
**To:** THE HAGUE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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